

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-11 ACDA-05 EUR-12 SAM-01 /076 W

----- 107752

O R 161315Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7648

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0251

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BC, AO

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA RECOGNIZES MPLA

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CHARLES TIBONE CALLED IN AMBASSADOR MORNING OF FEB. 16 TO NOTIFY US OF GOB DECISION TO RECOGNIZE MPLA AS LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. ACCORDING TO TIBONE, THE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ONLY ONE HOUR EARLIER AND WAS TAKEN BECAUSE OF ANXIETY ON THE PART OF THE PEOPLE OF BOTSWANA ABOUT THE UNSETTLED ANGOLA SITUATION. TIBONE REMINDED AMBASSADOR OF PREVIOUS GOB STATEMENTS THAT EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF TERRITORY WOULD BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN DECISION ON RECOGNITION. IN LIGHT OF RECENT MPLA MILITARY GAINS, GOB NOW CONSIDERS MPLA IN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF ANGOLA.

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2. ACCORDING TO TIBONE, GOB REGRETS THAT SOLUTION HAS BEEN

IMPOSED ON ANGOLAN PEOPLE AND WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS IN ADDIS  
ABABA FOR RECONCILIATION TO AVOID FURTHER BLOODSHED.

3. IN RESPONSE TO PROBING BY AMBASSADOR, TIBONE ADMITTED THAT  
GOB HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT OVER THIS  
CHANGE IN GOB POLICY. TIBONE LEFT IMIRESSION THAT GOZ  
CONSIDERING SIMILAR ACTION VERY SOON.

4. PRESS STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TO BE  
BROADCAST NATIONWIDE OVER RADIO BOTSWANA FEB. 16 AT 1300 LOCAL  
TIME. TEXT OF STATEMENT BY SEPTTEL.  
BOLEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RECOGNITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976GABORO00251  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>  
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04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BOTSWANA RECOGNIZES MPLA CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY  
**TAGS:** PFOR, BC, AO, MPLA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006